

Stepping Into the Future

Edgefield County
South Carolina



Strategic Plan

Approved by County Council March 8, 2012

Updated & Approved by County Council December 4, 2012 1

Edgefield County



The best way to envision the future is to invent it.

What will life look like in Edgefield County in 2015, 2020 and beyond? What is your vision for our County: More economic development and better jobs, more shopping, safer neighborhoods, increased tourism, better schools? These were the questions asked of the over 30 participants in the fall of 2011 as we began the Strategic Planning process. This dedicated group of volunteers sprang into action and through a comprehensive approach; we identified priorities and set goals for Edgefield County's Future.

After two planning sessions, two public input sessions and five information sessions, the committee developed two major areas of concentration:

Building for Tomorrow & Foundation for the Future

Short-term strategies and goals were developed for each area of concentration that the County believes can be accomplished within the next 12 to 15 months. Each action item identifies who would be involved in its implementation and when we estimate it to be completed. Several of the short-term goals will lead to mid-term goals and along with these additional mid-term goals were identified. All of these goals should be completed within the next five years.

We can have lofty goals, a nice strategic plan booklet, and timelines to get everything completed, but none of this will happen without follow through by the Strategic Planning Committee. This citizen-driven County plan will need periodic update and the Committee will need to reconvene several times a year to review the Plan. The County Administrator will send quarterly updates to County Council and the Committee on the status of each of the strategies and goals. The Committee may then add, delete or modify some of the goals depending on the results achieved through this process.

Through this plan, we now have a blueprint for the future growth and success of Edgefield County. It's through the efforts of many that will make this plan successful.

Edgefield County

Update



The County Council, stakeholders, and other citizens of Edgefield County met on September 20, 2013 for an economic development summit, “Elevating Edgefield County” to discuss the economic development environment in Edgefield County and how it could be improved. The group formulated some goals for the County and forwarded those recommendations to the Edgefield County Economic Development Committee who then recommended the goals to Council to be added to the strategic plan. Those additions can be found throughout the document next to the “NEW” label.

Also, in the updated version of the plan, you will notice two other icons before some of the goals. These icons let you know where the County stands on those goals. The ones with no icon are the ones that the County still has to accomplish in the future. The two icons that were added are the following:



This icon indicates that we have begun working on the goal but have not completed it yet.



This icon indicates goals that have been completed.

County Council appreciates the help of all the citizens that participated in this update to ensure that this document remains a living, breathing document to guide the County in the direction desired by its citizens.

Family life and safe neighborhoods are the key ingredients for a successful Edgefield County and the “Foundation for the Future”. Opportunities for families should abound and youth should have a special place to return to, make a career, or raise a family.

Foundation for the Future

Goal Number 1: Create a Trail System Throughout Edgefield County

Short Term Goals



1. Pursue grants for the trail system (County/Spring 2012)

2. Create a non-profit rails to trails organization (County & PC/Fall 2012)



3. Determine ownership of the RR right of way (County/Winter 2012)

Mid Term Goals



1. Begin acquiring ROW for the trail system (County & Non-profit/Fall 2013)

2. Acquire 501(c)3 status (Trail organization/Spring 2013)



3. Develop a master plan for the countywide trail system (County & PC*/Fall 2013)

4. Begin clearing the ROW (County & Non-profit/Winter 2013)

5. Create a website (County & Non-profit/Winter 2013)



*PC Underline indicates lead.

Foundation for the Future

Goal number 2: Strengthen and Improve our recreation Program

Short Term Goals



1. Determine the interest and need for an adult recreation program

(County and Recreation Commission/Winter 2012)

2. Evaluate the creation of a part-time position utilizing a high school student

(County and Recreation Commission/Winter 2012)

Mid Term Goals



1. Study the possibility of adding summer programs for youth

(County and Recreation Commission/Fall 2013)



Foundation for the Future

Goal number 3: Develop an Intern/Educational program for developing needed worker skill sets

Short Term Goals

- ✓ 1. Continue the senior work program and identify ways to further utilize their skills (County & Senior Center/Summer 2012)
- ✓ 2. Evaluate the possibility of an intern program for Edgefield County EMS and Sheriff's Office (County/Winter 2012)
- 3. Identify work projects for youth after school, on weekends, school holidays and over summer break (County & Schools/Fall 2012)



Mid Term Goals



- 1. Establish a committee to match skills needed by local industry with high schools and Technical College (EC Economic Development Committee/Summer 2013)
- 2. Identify additional internship and externship opportunities with traditional or nontraditional students (EC Economic Development Committee & Schools/Fall 2013)
- 3. Establish tours of local industries for high school students (EC Economic Development Committee, EDP, Schools, & Industries /Fall 2013)



Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. Nelson Mandela

Foundation for the Future

Goal number 4: Evaluate ways to get information to County residents

Short Term Goals

1. Determine ways to access all residents; especially seniors and youth (County led committee/Fall 2012)
2. Increase communication between County staff, Elected Officials and Towns (County & Towns/Fall 2012)
- ✓ 3. Develop a revised County website (County/Summer 2012)
- ✓ 4. Provide access to County Policy makers thorough "County Listening Tours" (County & Elected Officials/Ongoing)



Mid Term Goals

1. Develop email, Twitter, Facebook and other notification methods for County and Community information (County & Chamber/Summer 2013)
2. Establish a joint Countywide summit (County & other government agencies/Fall 2013)



Foundation for the Future

Goal number 5: Improve our Public Safety throughout Edgefield County

Short Term Goals

Mid Term Goals



1. Review non-emergency transport in Edgefield County (County/Fall 2012)



1. Add more road patrol officers (County/Summer 2013)



2. Investigate ways to reduce our response time for Sheriff, EMS and Fire (County Committee/Winter 2012)



2. Establish the locations for future joint EMS & Fire Substations (County & Fire Board/Winter 2013)

3. Determine the need for a common training and classroom facility (County & Fire Board/Spring 2013)

3. Establish a County-wide training and classroom facility (County & Fire Board/Spring 2014)

4. Consider creating a Fire Chief/Marshall position for the County (County and Fire Board/Winter 2012)



5. Identify areas of training for fire departments (County and Fire Board/Spring 2012)



6. Determine ways to lower ISO ratings in the County (County & Fire Board/Spring 2013)



Foundation for the Future

Goal number 6: Strengthen our medical community

Short Term Goals



1. Work with ECH to help showcase Edgefield County in the recruitment of doctors (County and Hospital Board/Winter 2012)

Mid Term Goals

1. Help to establish medical offices in Merriwether area (County & Edgefield County Hospital (ECH)/Winter 2013)



Foundation for the Future

Goal number 7: Establish a funding mechanism for new facilities, programs and infrastructure in Edgefield County

Short Term Goals



1. Consider a possible Local Option Sales Tax, Hospitality Tax, and Accommodation Tax in Edgefield County (County/Winter 2012)
2. Determine if the County should establish one or more Tax Increment Financing (TIF) areas in the County (County and PC/Spring 2013)
3. Consider developing incentives to utilize vacant commercial property. (County and Towns/Spring 2013)



Foundation for the Future

Goal number 8: Evaluate ways to encourage residential growth.

Short Term Goals

1. Evaluate tax structure for undeveloped property, particularly multi-lot discount. (County/Summer 2013)
2. Consider enticing retirement communities to locate in Edgefield County. (County/Winter 2013)



“Building for Tomorrow” allows Edgefield County to be a place where businesses thrive and prosper. The County has a rich history that values businesses and we recognize this as one of our greatest assets. As we build for tomorrow we will partner with others to encourage economic opportunities.

Building for Tomorrow

Goal number 1: Improve the infrastructure in Edgefield County

Short Term Goals



1. Pull together stakeholders & meet with SCDOT to develop a realistic timeline to start the US 25 widening project (County, ECWSA & PC/Summer 2012)

2. Develop a water and sewer master plan for high growth areas in Edgefield County (County & ECWSA/Winter 2012)

3. Determine the current extent of broadband & cellular coverage in Edgefield County (County & PC/Winter 2012)



4. Study the possible extension of a sewer line directly to the Aiken County Public Service Authority (PSA) Horse Creek sewer plant (County & ECWSA/Fall 2012)

5. Calculate the Impact Fee needed to pay for these improvements (County & PC/Fall 2012)



6. Determine viability for the reuse of grey water (ECWSA/Winter 2012)



Mid Term Goals



1. Complete the widening of US 25 (SCDOT, County & ECWSA/ 2015)

2. Begin working with developer on providing sewer to high growth areas (County & ECWSA/Spring 2013)

3. Develop a plan to provide broadband and cellular service throughout Edgefield County (County & PC/Summer 2013)

4. Install a sewer line with direct connection to the PSA (County & ECWSA/Spring 2014)



Building for Tomorrow

Goal number 2: Strengthen and Improve the Edgefield County Airport

Short Term Goals



1. Pull together stakeholders to review the future of the airport (County & Stakeholders/Fall 2012)

2. Consider re-establishing the Airport Commission (AC) (County/Late Fall 2012)

3. Consider completing a boundary survey of the property (County/Spring 2013)



Mid Term Goals

1. Develop a funding plan for the long term success of the airport (County, AC, FBO/Summer 2013)

2. Begin updating the master plan for the airport (County, AC, FBO/Summer 2013)

3. Review the contract for rental agreement of the County's hanger (County & AC/Fall 2013)







4. Acquire funding for security fencing of the airport (County, AC, FBO/Winter 2013)





Building for Tomorrow

Goal number 3: Refine and Create New Development Standards

Short Term Goals

-  1. Establish a yearly joint meeting between the Planning Commission (PC) and the Edgefield County Council to create an "Action Agenda" (County & PC/Spring 2012)
-  2. Review and update development standards and subdivision regulations in EC (PC/Winter 2012)
-  3. Evaluate the creation of an overlay district for all major roadways in Edgefield County (PC/Spring 2013)
-  4. Consider a highway access plan to limit the number of driveways on major and collector roads (PC/Spring 2013)
5. Add ECWSA standards & regulations into the subdivision standards & regulations. (PC & ECWSA/Spring 2013)
-  6. Consider impact of growth and new development on schools and increase communication between the Planning Commission and the school. (County & School/Fall 2012)
-  7. Continue building relationships with regional governmental entities to discuss common goals on development. (County/Winter 2012)

Mid Term Goals

1. Develop a plan for the trail system to encompass new and existing subdivisions into the plan (PC/Fall 2013)
2. Utilize traffic surveys to identify trends in traffic patterns to best plan for future traffic arteries and connectors (CTC & PC/Fall 2013)
-  3. Create overlay districts for some of the major roadways in Edgefield County based on the new development standards (PC/Winter 2013)
4. Update the County's Comprehensive Plan (PC/Spring 2014)
-  5. Review zoning designations in the County to determine how property can best be utilized. (Spring 2014)



Building for Tomorrow

Goal number 4: Foster a stronger relationship between the County and existing Industries

Short Term Goals



1. Establish meetings with EC industries to determine ways to support and expand their industries and to determine skills needed from today's employees (Economic Development Partnership (EDP), EC Economic Development Committee (EDC), and industries/Fall 2012)

2. Engage NWTF to help promote EC (County, Towns & NWTF/Spring 2013)



3. Determine ways to better utilize SC technical colleges to build our relationship with current EC Industry (EDP, EDC, and Tech Colleges/Spring 2013)

4. Identify incentives or infrastructure to further enhance existing industries (County & EDC/Summer 2013)

Mid Term Goals



1. Establish a reserve fund to provide incentives for new and expanding industries (County/Fall 2013)

2. Create an event or festival with NWTF (County, Town of Edgefield & NWTF/Fall 2013)

3. Through incentives or Technical Colleges assistance encourage 2 or more plant expansions (EDC, EDP & Tech Colleges/Summer 2014)



Headquartered in Edgefield, the National Wild Turkey Federation is one of the foremost Conservation Organizations in the United States.

Building for Tomorrow

Goal number 5: Improve the Business Community in Edgefield County

Short Term Goals

1. Identify ways to show-case our business community on our website (County, Chamber & Business'/Winter 2012)



2. Establish an Edgefield County "information clearing house" with one-stop shopping for developers & builders (County & Towns/Spring 2013)



3. The Economic Development Partnership will continue to work with Aiken and Edgefield County to market industrial parks. (EDP, Fall 2012)



Mid Term Goals

1. Develop a link on the County's website to showcase the business community (County, Chamber & Business'/Fall 2013)

2. Establish a joint County/Town Planning Committee to address common issue (County, PC & Towns/Winter 2013)

3. Develop a brand and logo for Edgefield County (County, Towns & Chamber/Summer 2013)

4. Survey the buying trends of citizens, business and industry in Edgefield County (County, Chamber, Towns & Business'/Summer2013)



Building for Tomorrow

Goal number 6: Strengthen and Improve our Tourism

Short Term Goals

1. Convene all EC tourism stakeholders to:
 - a) Determine future tourism opportunities
 - b) Determine potential tourism partnerships
 - c) Investigate the creation of a standing Tourism Committee (County & Tourism Stakeholders/Spring 2013)
2. Consider the cost/benefits of hiring a grant writer (County/Spring 2012)
3. Consider partnering with the Town of Edgefield in their existing tourism program (County & Town//Spring 2012)

Mid Term Goals

1. Consider hiring a Tourism Coordinator (County/Fall 2014)



Edgefield County Discovery Center

Building for Tomorrow

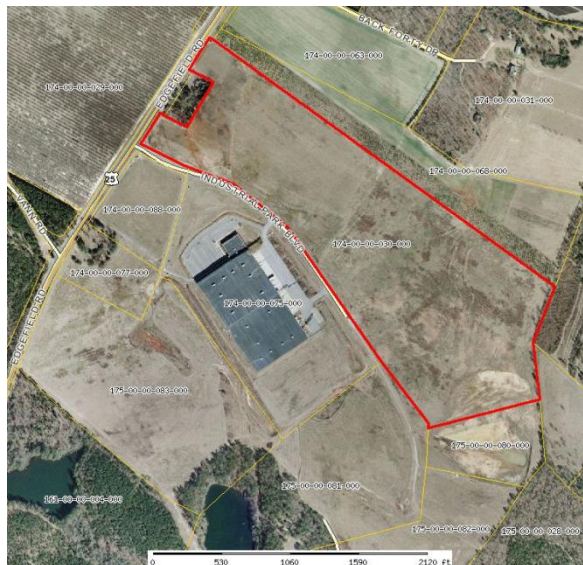


Goal number 7: Create a competitive economic environment by becoming Product Ready, Process Ready, People Ready, and Profit Ready.

Short Term Goals



1. Consider having the Edgefield County Industrial Park recertified by the State of South Carolina. (Fall 2014)
2. Provide an inventory of current industrial and commercial properties available for prospective businesses, including location, water and sewer capacity, electric/gas, zoning, etc. (Summer 2014)
3. Consider having an engineering study conducted in order to determine the best location for a future industrial park. (Winter 2014)
4. Consider establishing a packet for commercial business and industry that contains land development requirements and building permit information in order to fast track the process. (Summer 2014)
5. Work with Work Ready Communities committee in order to get the workforce certified through work keys. (Summer 2014)



Our strategic plan is a flexible, living document that County staff will use to plan their operations and County Council will use to set its annual goals. We, the citizens of Edgefield County, will use it to keep progressing as we step into the future.

***We would like to thank the following steering committee
Members for volunteering their time and participating in this process.***

Rodney Ashcraft	Donna Livingston
Genia Blackwell	Tommy Meador
Willie Bright	Scott Neely
James Burt	Essie Nicholson
Dean Campbell	Sharon Nunamaker
Brad Covar	Billy Padget
Mary Derrick	John Pettigrew
Adell Dobey	Pat Robinson
Norman Dorn	Ashley Rose
Ken Durham	Todd Scoggins
Eldwin Griffin	Richard Shaffer
Elizabeth Harm	Joey Smith
Edward Howard	Miller Thompson
Brent Lawrence	Jennifer Wilbanks
Harris Baily	Will Williams
Andy Livingston	Daniel Wooten

We would also like to thank the citizens who participated at the public input sessions and other meetings whose contribution guided the development of this document. In addition, a special thank you to Jennifer Gilley, Roger LeDuc and Lynn Strom for assisting the committee throughout this process and USCA Chancellor Tom Hallman for facilitating the first two sessions. Lastly, we thank Tricia Glenn for formatting this document and providing the graphics and photos.



The success of the future comes from the efforts of today, Winston Churchill.

Tpg Design